

## **LA100 - Fast Start**

### National OA Adviser Training

**Session Length: 25 Minutes**

#### **Overview:**

- Welcome to OA
- OA and its purpose
- Gain a High level view of how OA operates and how and where adult advisers work within its program
- What Next? Lots of training opportunities and resources

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Explain OA and its purpose within BSA
- What do adults do in OA
- First Steps as an adult participant
- What is an adviser within OA and what do they do
- Guide to resources

#### **Detailed Outline of the Session (Slide 1 – Title):**

This session is intended as a quick overview of the Order of the Arrow and how adults work as advisers within its program.

#### **Welcome to Fast Start (Slide 2)**

Hello and welcome to the Fast Start session for Adult Advisers. This session is intended for new adult members or members that are becoming involved again and will give a general overview of the Mission and Purpose of the Order of the Arrow as well as provide tips for new adults and first steps that you should take. We will also explore some of the training that is available. If you are a brand new Ordeal member and have not viewed the JumpStart for new members, please visit the [JumpStart](http://jumpstart.oe-bsa.org/) web page first: <http://jumpstart.oe-bsa.org/>.

### **Purpose of Fast Start (Slide 3)**

Let's go through a quick rundown of the purpose of this Fast Start training session. We will review the Purpose and Mission of the Order of the Arrow (OA) and how it fits within the framework of the Boy Scouts of America. We will review your role as an adult adviser within OA. We will briefly review the structure of the OA. We will also provide some first steps and guidance for a new adult member. Lastly, we will review our training and online resources available.

### **What is Our Purpose (Slide 4)**

What is the Purpose of the Order of the Arrow? The Order has a single Purpose with four distinct parts, which are as follows:

- *"Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition."*
- *"Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp."*
- *"Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation."*
- *"Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others."*

### **What is Our Purpose (Slide 5)**

The previous points say a lot about what we do as Arrowmen. It also highlights the important role that adult advisers have in guiding youth to purposeful leadership. We need to be examples to our youth in these purposes: Always be in proper uniform, camp with your unit, be an example of a leader and provide service to others. The youth are always looking to you, even though you may not notice it.

### **What is Our Mission? (Slide 6)**

So what is our Mission within the BSA? As stated in the Order of the Arrow Handbook:

*"The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults."*

## **How do Adults Fit In (Slide 7)**

You have been selected either by your unit or by the district or council to be one of those "capable adults". So how do adults fit in with our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service? The mission points directly to what we as adults are tasked to do within the OA: youth development, the same as in any Scouting unit. You are NOT here to relive your youth or be one of those that like the recognition but don't provide any added value to the youth.

In the OA, adults serve in an advisory role to provide guidance, counsel and mentoring to our youth. With elected youth officers and appointed youth chairmen of each chapter and lodge this advice is provided in much the same way that a Scoutmaster would advise, or guide, his senior patrol leader. Adults also advise those not in leadership roles, helping them to aspire to be the best person they can be, encourage rank advancement in their unit, and maybe taking on a leadership role both in their unit and the OA.

We guide them in living a life according to the Boy Scout Oath and Law. We take on this role for the youth in part of their Scouting journey. We may never see the results of our guidance and counsel, but the youth will benefit more if we do our job right. They will become those leaders and members of society we are proud of.

Adults in the OA also provide service to the unit, district and council. You were selected into the Honor Society and as such need to provide the example for others to follow. This includes being a supporter of the Council, the Council and District staff, the Scout Executive and the Council Committees.

## **How are we Organized (Slide 6)**

So how is the Order of the Arrow organized? The Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America and is chartered by the National Office, but operates at the Council level as an integral part of the Council. It typically is part of the Program or Camping Committee of the Council. As such, the Council Executive (the "Supreme Chief of the Fire") is the final authority on all OA matters. It functions at all levels within the Council. In many cases, like the BSA council, the lodge has chapters that in most cases correspond to a district. At each level, such as the chapter and lodge, you have a "Key 3" committee that oversees the operation of the chapter and lodge. As an example, for a chapter, the district executive, chapter chief, and chapter adviser would form the Key 3.

There is a dedicated online training module on how we are organized. A review of the on-line training available to you will be given in detail towards the end of this session.

## First Steps for a New Adult (Slide 7)

What can you do as a new adult to become involved with our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service? Let's review a few actions you can do right away.

- **Get involved at your unit level as an OA member.** Find out if your troop has an adult Assistant Scoutmaster serving as the OA Troop Adviser. Meet your OA Troop Representative, which is an official youth leadership position available to youth OA members in your troop. This can make a big difference with the quality of your troop's program by promoting camping and participation in OA by your troop's youth members.
- **Meet other adult advisers** including your chapter and lodge advisers. Introduce yourself to your Chapter and/or Lodge Adviser. Learn about a "one and done" opportunity that you can help with. An example of this would be to advise a youth for a one-time lodge or chapter service project or activity such as an annual banquet. This is a little bit less of a commitment than becoming an assigned adviser for a youth in a chapter or lodge leadership position.
- **Attend chapter or lodge meetings** as well as help transport youth members to OA activities. Be a model of Cheerful Service with work and service projects during lodge and chapter work weekends. Here you become more visible to the youth and adult leadership. Do your best to show you want to be involved as an adult in service to the youth and the lodge or chapter.
- **Read the OA Handbook!** Even if you are not a new member, it has some good information in there where a refresher is worth the time. If you are not already a Brotherhood member, it will help when it is time to become one.
- **Support the District and Council.** Be active outside of the confines of the OA. Be a vocal supporter of the Council, the Scout Executive and the Council and District staff. OA service includes advising our youth but also being a servant to the Council.

Besides this set of on-line training sessions geared for the adult adviser, there is an enormous amount of training and resources online. Explore the National OA Web site: <http://www.oa-bsa.org> and the National OA Training web site: <http://training.oa-bsa.org>

## **Additional Resources (Slide 8)**

Let's do a quick review of additional resources and training available to adult members. We will give a brief overview of leadership training available and review the online training resources available.

Some of the training opportunities that exist include Lodge Leadership Development (LLD). This is a day or weekend long training session for lodge and chapter leaders and members usually held on an annual basis. This is a great opportunity to help the youth learn more about leadership and running a chapter or lodge.

An annual opportunity for top notch training is training at your section's conclave. Ask your Lodge or Chapter adviser about this event. Besides fun activities, there are also a number of training and workshop opportunities available. Some of this will be geared to the adult advisers.

Also, available on a regional basis is the weekend long National Leadership Seminar (NLS). This is a nationally developed program where youth begin to learn advanced leadership skills so that they become effective leaders within their lodge and chapter. It is open to both youth and adults and is required for attendance to the adult only National Training, the Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC). This is open to all adult advisers and gives the advisers tools, methods and guidance to help the youth get the most out of what they learned at the NLS.

Another opportunity is an annual OA Adviser Training during the summer at the Philmont Training Center led by National Order of the Arrow Committee members. This explores topics of interest to adult advisers.

And finally there are training opportunities at the National Order of the Arrow Conference, held every three to four years. This is a major conference where all lodges throughout the country gather for training, fellowship and just to have a lot of fun. The training available is extensive and all accredited by the National OA Committee.

All of these programs are top rated and should be something that adult and youth members should attend.

## **Online Resources (Slide 10)**

Let's review some of the training sessions that are available in this on-line Lodge Adviser series. These cover topics that give you ways to become a better adviser. These topics cover a number of areas including Administration, How-To guidance, Lodge Issues, "Soft" skills, and Program.

## Online Resources – Administration (Slide 10)

These sessions relate to administrative aspects of a lodge:

- [LA110](#) [Lodge Organization and Structure](#)
- [LA120](#) [Lodge Positions and their Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [LA130](#) [Lodge Adviser Resources](#)
- [LA140](#) [Fund Raising](#)
- [LA150](#) [Conducting a Lodge Needs Assessment](#)
- [LA160](#) [Characteristics of High Performing Lodges](#)

## Online Resources – How-To (Slide 11)

There are also several training sessions that provide How-To guidance on several topics including:

- [LA200](#) [HOW TO: JTE](#)
- [LA210](#) [HOW TO: LodgeMaster, Re-Charter](#)
- [LA220](#) [HOW TO: Budgeting, Financing](#)
- [LA230](#) [Communications of a Lodge](#)
- [LA240](#) [HOW TO: Planning/Organizing a typical lodge function/activity](#)

## Online Resources – Lodge Issues (Slide 12)

Additional sessions deal with some of the issues that lodges face such as:

- [LA300](#) [Issues facing a lodge: Sash and Dash](#)
- [LA310](#) [Issues facing a lodge: OA relationships with units](#)
- [LA320](#) [Issues facing a lodge: Membership Retention](#)
- [LA330](#) [Issues facing a lodge: Brotherhood Conversion](#)
- [LA340](#) [Issues facing a lodge: Program content](#)

## Online Resources – “Soft” Skills (Slide 13)

Sessions are available that include:

- [LA400](#) [Team Building](#)
- [LA410](#) [Personnel assessment/getting the right people](#)
- [LA420](#) [Relationships](#)
- [LA430](#) [Youth coaching/mentoring primer](#)
- [LA440](#) [Working with youth, near youth and adults](#)

## Online Resources – Program (Slide 14)

Finally, there is a session available ([LA500 National Programs](#)) describing the various national programs available to our youth and adult members. These are exciting programs that each youth should have an opportunity to participate in at least some of them.

## Conclusion (Slide 15)

In conclusion, hopefully you have gained a bit of insight that will help you to become an active adult member within our Brotherhood of Cheerful service. This includes knowing your role as an adult, how to get involved and some of the training that is available to you.

Your role as an adult in Scouting and the Order of the Arrow is extremely important and can have tremendous impact on the development of our youth. The rewards are not monetary, but come from knowing you made a difference in the life of our youth. Welcome.